

Appl. No.: 09/704,864
Amdt. Dated August 21, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated June 2, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for handling material, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) obtaining digital rights management protected material for a consumer;
 - b) informing a bookshelf that the protected material was obtained;
 - c) determining whether or not there is an existing copy of the protected material;
 - d) storing an existing copy of the protected material automatically for archival purposes at a site remote from the consumer at the time the material was first obtained by the consumer; and
 - e) creating a pointer for the consumer to point to the stored archival material.
2. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the existing copy of the protected material is obtained from the provider of the material.
3. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the existing copy of the protected material is obtained from the vendor of the material.

Appln. No.: 09/704,864
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4. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the existing copy of the protected material is obtained from the consumer of the material.

5. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the pointer is located in a bookshelf.

6. (currently amended) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of: transferring the consumer's rights to the material to a third party.

7. (original) The method claimed in claim 6, further including the step of: archiving automatically the transferred material for the third party at a site remote from the third party.

8. (original) The method claimed in claim 7, further including the step of: creating a pointer for the consumer to point to the transferred archival material.

9. (original) The method claimed in claim 8, further including the step of: creating a pointer for the third party to point to the transferred archival material.

10. (currently amended) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of: transferring a portion of the consumer's rights to the material to a third party.

Appn. No.: 09/704,864
Amdt. Dated August 21, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated June 2, 2003

11. (currently amended) The method claimed in claim 10, further including the step of: transferring the consumer's rights to the material to a third party.

12. (original) The method claimed in claim 11, further including the step of: archiving automatically the transferred material for the third party at a site remote from the third party.

13. (original) The method claimed in claim 11, further including the step of: creating a pointer for the consumer to point to the transferred archival material.

14. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of: retrieving a copy of the protected material.

15. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of: loaning the material to a third party.

16. (original) The method claimed in claim 15, further including the step of: archiving automatically the loaned material for the third party at a site remote from the third party.

17. (original) The method claimed in claim 16, further including the step of: creating a pointer for the consumer to point to the loaned archival material.

Appn. No.: 09/704,864
Amdt. Dated August 21, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated June 2, 2003

18. (original) The method claimed in claim 16, further including the step of:

creating a pointer for the party to point to the loaned archival material.

19. (currently amended) A system for managing digital rights and automatically purchasing digital content, said system comprising;

- a) a digital rights clearinghouse that records transactions;
- b) an archive coupled to the clearinghouse that automatically backs up content represented by the transactions at the time the content was first purchased; and
- c) a plurality of computers coupled to the clearinghouse and the archive that acquire digital rights to the managed content.